

Session 2 – Practice Calcium Linescan (synthetic)
Working with AI: Image Analysis using LLMs – UC Davis School of
Medicine

FILE: Session2_Practice_Linescan.tif
FORMAT: 16-bit grayscale TIFF, uncompressed, 256 rows (space) x 750
columns (time)

>>> THIS IS NOT THE RECORDING FROM THE SESSION. <<<
Different content on purpose, so you cannot pattern-match the
picture you
watched being built: this one has 5 sparks, 2 whole-cell
transients, and NO
wave. The class recording had 3 sparks, 1 transient and 1 wave.
Geometry and
kinetics are identical, so a tool built from the session prompts
runs on it
unchanged – it just has to find different things.

ACQUISITION (simulated confocal line-scan)
Line rate: 500 lines/second
Time per column: 2 ms
Total duration: 1.5 s (750 columns)
Spatial calibration: 0.30 $\mu\text{m}/\text{pixel}$
Scanned line length: 76.8 μm (256 pixels)
Indicator: Fluo-4 (single-wavelength), raw fluorescence F
Baseline F0: ~1000 counts (arbitrary units)

AXES
Y (rows) = space along the scanned line
X (columns) = time

CONTENTS (exact positions in
Session2_Practice_Linescan_GroundTruth.csv)
5 calcium sparks – local, brief: 10 ms rise, ~20 ms decay
tau, ~1.8 μm sigma
2 whole-cell transients – global, slower: 40 ms rise, ~60 ms decay
tau,
1100 ms apart (~0.9 Hz pacing)
NO propagating wave – a correct detector reports none. If yours
finds one,
that is a false positive, and worth
understanding.
+ planted distractor artifacts (4 brief flickers, 3 narrow streaks)
that a naive
detector will falsely flag. These are NOT real events; they exist
so each
detection gate (amplitude / duration / width) has a distinct job.

Spark kinetics sit just inside the published reference band:

SparkMaster 2

(Tomek, Nieves-Cintrón, Navedo, Ko & Bers, Circulation Research 2023;133(6):450-462)

reports spark TTP ~15 ms and decay tau ~20 ms. These sparks are slightly faster

than that typical value, which is why they carry the tightest Nyquist margin of

anything in the recording (~5-6x) – still comfortably resolved at 500 lines/s.

USE

Compute $\Delta F/F_0$ with F_0 taken from the first 100 ms (first 50 columns, before

any event and clear of every planted artifact), per row. $\Delta F/F_0$ is

scale-invariant, so the raw count scaling above does not matter.

Pixel values are raw fluorescence counts in the high hundreds to low thousands –

they are NOT 0-255. Do not assume 8-bit.

Part A target: recover the spark peak times, then compute the intervals between

consecutive sparks. Check them against the ground-truth key only afterwards.